

## Church News

### West Independence, Ohio

We feel to proclaim the good news that brother S. W. Wilt, of Toilegate, W. Va., has come to us to help along the good cause of the Master.

Commenced service Sunday morning, the 19th, 10 a. m. Has delivered two excellent sermons. Think he will be a power for good. Pray for the success of the cause at this place.

Y. C. HAZEN.

### Gravelton, Ind.

Our church at this place has been wonderfully built up under the care of our worthy pastor Rev. Marks. We held one revival meeting beginning the 21st of November and continued three weeks, which has been reported. The good people not being contented with this voted to hold another which closed the evening of the 19th of February, with two accessions. In all there were twenty six united with the church and two reclaimed. The work here is progressing finely. Brother Marks is a young man of great power and an earnest worker. We also have an evergreen Sunday school with a full corps of officers and teachers. We have a fine class of young men which is the pride of a good Sunday-school, taught by our young brother W. Sharp, who just recently started out in the service of his Master. Our young teachers are Miss Ida Stuckman, Miss Pearle Malcolm, Miss Belle Sensibaugh and Mr. Mell Thomas, and Miss Mary Sensibaugh secretary. With Miss Winnie Sensibaugh at the organ we are fully equipped for the great work before us. Thro the kind efforts of our pastor the school has been supplied with new books. We are looking forward to a bright future at Gravelton and our prayer is that much good may be accomplished and that more souls may be brought into the marvelous light of the gospel. Give God the praise. Please continue the EVANGELIST.

JESSE HOLDEMAN.

### Middlebranch, Ohio

Brother J. L. Kimmel, of Buckeye City, Ohio, our former pastor, was called to this place unexpectedly a few days ago thro the death of Mrs. Freed, a very aged lady, an acquaintance and friend of Brother Kimmel and by her request he was to officiate at her funeral. His many friends were glad to meet him again.

Kind readers, thinking that it might be of some interest to inform you of the progress of the brethren at Middlebranch, it does seem as tho we were specially favored during the last few weeks. Our pastor, brother Isaac Ross, of Buckeye City, Ohio, held a series of meetings at the Middlebranch Brethren church which continued for about four weeks, resulting in six accessions to the church by baptism and four by relation. The baptism took place Sunday afternoon in the presence of a large concourse of people.

The weather was very pleasant for this occasion. The confirmation services were held on Sunday evening, after which Brother Ross preached a very powerful sermon and was listened to with rapt attention, leaving a most favorable impressiou. Brother Ross has been for sometime delighting his large congregations with very able discourses. Thro his energy the Christian work has revived greatly and the prospects are bright for renewed effort on the part of the membership. Thro divine favor we look forward to greater success.

GRACE L. WISE.

### Sunnyside, Washington, Items

I beg pardon for not writing sooner. We are so overwhelmed with our development, work and correspondence here that many of our best friends are neglected and among our best friends I want the EVANGELIST included. By the way, I am pleased with the paper. It is growing in form and usefulness. We have reason to feel proud of our church paper. I trust that not a stone may be left unturned by every individual member in seeking to secure for the paper the patronage it so justly merits. This will enable the management to still farther improve the paper, and besides it will help you in your spiritual life to go out and hustle up subscribers for your church paper. You are an evangelist, a missionary while engaged in this work.

Our Sunday school is growing. There has been a Sunday-school here for four years. It was reorganized the first of the year as the Brethren Union Sunday-school of Sunnyside, Wash. J. E. Laird from Lanark, Ill., is Supt. He is the man for the place. His wife teaches in the day school. They are Methodists. Brother Laird's parents are members of our church, and he is earnestly laboring for the cause of the Master. We have a membership of about 75, and expect to increase this to 100 soon. We have started out to accomplish this and at last hope to win. H. M. Lichty is Ass't. Supt. Catharine Miller, daughter of Eld. S. H. Miller, who has moved here recently from Waterloo, Iowa, is our organist. She is faithful and competent. Miss Brown, a daughter of one of the former leaders of the school, is secretary, and she fills her place nobly. The rest of the officers as well as the teachers are wide awake and our school will soon be a hummer. We are at present using the Brethren's S. S. literature, published at Mt. Morris, Ill., but we expect as we are the Brethren Union Sunday-school to alternate with the German Baptist Brethren and use our literature half the time.

Our church services are held twice each Sabbath. Brother D. K. Eby, of Lena, Ill., who was first on the ground alternates with brother S. H. Miller in filling the pulpit. Our services are well attended. When Brother Harrison arrives (first week in March) he is expected to preach in turn. For the present we are uniting our efforts, and while we are working together to build up Christ's

kingdom, we expect to hold our organizations separate here as they are in the east where we all came from.

We expect brother W. Grubb and family who brings with them two other families from Jennings, La., and a Brother Raber and family from McPherson, Kansas, here in March.

Brethren Miller, Rowland and Eby are each putting up large substantial improvements on their lands. Brother Daniel P. Weybright, who came here from Bond, Kan., last fall is doing the stone work, and will also build Brother Rowland's house.

I am writing this at the home of brother J. B. Early, of Salem, Ore., whose correspondence you have just read. The work is opening up grandly here and I look for a large and influential congregation here. Brother Early is a leader in his community, not only in spiritual but also in temporal matters. He was superintendent of the State Institute for the deaf and dumb, located here for four years, and was the overseer of the erection of the present new buildings. He has a sister living in the city, both she and her husband being mutes, the husband holding an important position in a house furnishing establishment. Brother Early is a breeder of fancy poultry, Jersey cattle, Poland China pigs and Marino sheep.

This is a great center for Jerseys. They have been breeding and importing here for 20 years, and you find much good stock in the dairy line. I am sent here by the Sunnyside Co-operative Association to arrange for the purchase of from one to four car loads of the best that can be had for milk purposes this to be the foundation for a large, co-operative creamery that is to be built at Sunnyside the coming season.

I have learned that brother and sister Josiah Ashenfelter, who have lived in this community for 20 years have just passed over the river. These were very old people and died according to their own wishes and desires, a few days apart. They are the parents of John Ashenfelter, of Beatrice, Neb., and Mrs. John Lichty, of Falls City, Neb., known to many readers of the EVANGELIST.

H. M. LICHTY.

### Biographical Sketch

Thomas Wilson was born in Vesta, Sweden, May 2nd, 1807, where he resided until he was 21 years of age, when he left his native land, and entered upon a seafaring life. He continued as a sailor for 22 years, seeing much of the world in his long cruises, one of which lasted for more than four years. A considerable part of his mariner's life was spent off the eastern and southern coast of the U. S., with which he became quite familiar. He was often in Key West, Havana and other cities of which much was heard during the recent war. He had a very vivid recollection of these cities, as well as others he had visited in his travels. He was off the coast of California in 1828, 71 years ago, when there was little to suggest the wealth and population which has since been familiarly associated with the Pacific slope. His